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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Involuntary 2nd Tours in RVN Slated for 2,000 Army Men

Involuntary second tours in Vietnam are slated for an estimated 2,000 Army officers, warrant officers and aviators in FY68 under a policy designed to return those who have been away from Vietnam the longest.

Selection will be made from officers in the sustaining base possessing the required qualifications. This selection will hinge on a number of additional factors, including stabilized tours in DOD, joint or high priority assignments; compassionate or physical reasons; and insufficient remaining service.

Officers with the same qualifications and the same month of return will be considered according to cumulative involuntary separation from dependents as a result of overseas service since June 1950.

The estimated numbers slated for second tours are 1,020 officers and warrant officers and 1,800 aviators. This compares with FY67 estimates of 19 officers and warrant officers and 416 aviators.

President Awards Unit Citation To 21st Tactical Air Support Sq.

President Johnson has awarded the Presidential Unit Citation to the 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron.

The Air Force unit received the citation "for extraordinary heroism in action against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam, from Aug. 1, 1965 to Feb. 1, 1966.

The White House said actions of the squadron in more than 50 major engagements against hostile forces contributed substantially to the success of major operations and the savings of hundreds of friendly lives.

Soldier's Letter Wins $5,000 Posthumous Award

A soldier's parents received their son's posthumous award for his letter expressing his feelings about God, his country, his job, freedom and his family. PFC Hiram D. Strickland, Graham, N. C., was awarded a George Washington Plaque and a $5,000 check, highest award made by Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. He was killed in action with his unit, Battery B, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 17th Artillery, in Vietnam.

NAVY CROSS WINNER—Maj. Robert P. Guay (center) receives the Navy Cross Medal from Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, as Assistant Commandant Lt. Gen Richard C. Mangrum, looks on. Major Guay received the award for heroism while serving with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261 in Vietnam in March 1966.

Cardinal Spellman Receives Sylvanus Thayer Award

Francis Cardinal Spellman has been named to receive the 10th annual Sylvanus Thayer Award for Outstanding Service to the Nation. The award is given annually by the Association of Graduates, U. S. Military Academy, to the U. S. citizen whose service in the national interest exemplifies personal devotion to the ideals expressed in the Military Academy motto, "Duty, Honor, Country."

In addition to his duties as Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Spellman has served for 27 years as Military Vicar to the armed forces. In this capacity, he has travelled to military posts throughout the world and has spent the last 16 Christmas seasons with members of the armed forces overseas.

The award is named for the fifth superintendent of the Military Academy, who was instrumental in instituting principles of academic and military training that have endured for more than a century and a half.

Washington Memos

DOD STATISTICS SHOW that 7,505 U. S. service personnel lost their lives in RVN from hostile action causes from Jan. 1, 1961 through Feb. 18, 1967. Additionally, 1,677 lost their lives from other causes.

MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND Civil Engineer Maintenance Management Award for 1966 has been awarded to Travis Air Force Base, Calif. In competition with 10 other Air Force installations, the award went to 60th Civil Engineering Squadron. It was fourth award gathered by base engineers in six years of competition.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS announced nomination of Capt. Thomas B. Owen, director of Naval Research Laboratory, to fill post of Chief of Naval Research when RAdm. John K. Leydon retires June 30. Capt. Owen will be promoted to rear admiral upon assuming his new post.

DURING WW II some 23 percent of all medically evacuated Army cases were returned for psychiatric reasons. Percentage evacuated from Vietnam has been approximately six percent. This is lowest rate recorded in any previous conflict involving U.S. forces.

NEW U. S. MILITARY and civilian record for longest continuous generation of electricity and space heat by a nuclear reactor has been claimed by Air Force Air Defense Command's 731st Radar Squadron's PM-1 nuclear power plant at Sundance, Wyo. To establish record, reactor passed 3,758 hours of operation marks set by Yankee reactor, Rowe, Mass., and surpassed military performance record of 3,390.4 hours established last October by Navy's PM-3A reactor at McMurdo Sound, Antarctica.

MILITARY TRAFFIC Management and Terminal Service marked second anniversary Feb. 24-25. Jointly-staffed organization is the single-manager transportation agency for Defense Department.

U. S. ARMY ENGINEER Command Engineer Equipment School was opened in Dong Ba Thin, Vietnam, Feb. 6. School, under operational control of the 18th Engineer Brigade, will provide increased new operator proficiency in engineering equipment in use in Vietnam.

NAVAL POST GRADUATE school dropped from its academic operations the General Line curriculum and the Naval Warfare Department has been disbanded. School officials stated termination of General Line curriculum, attended by foreign officers, came because of dwindling class size. Naval Warfare Department existed primarily to serve General Line course.

THE AIR WAR in North Vietnam will be one of four major programs at this year's Air Force Association Convention in San Francisco, March 15-17. Other key subjects are: The Military Manpower Dilemma; The Technological Threat, and Air Reserve Forces.

NEWLY-DEDICATED LYSTER Army Hospital at Ft. Rucker, Ala., has been described by Army Surgeon General as "effective nucleus for continuing and expanding" contributions of Army aviation medicine around the world. Hospital, built for $3.2 million, was dedicated Feb. 18.

MARINE F-4B PHANTOM fighters have begun arrested landings on tri-service aluminum landing mat runway being tested by USAF Tactical Airlift Center at Dyess AFB, Tex. After Marines complete their tests, runway will be covered with water and Air Force F-100s and F-105s will test surface for wet weather operations. More than 800 landings have been made on test runway during current tests by aircraft ranging from C-141 transport to CH-47A helicopter.

PARIS HOUSING FACILITIES are limited for official visitors from now until April 15 because of EUCOM's coming relocation to Stuttgart, Germany. Army has cabled commands to limit travel to EUCOM to an absolute minimum. CINCEUR has requested 30 days advanced notice to accommodate official visitors.

AIR MARSHAL Eduardo Gomes, Minister of Aeronautics, Brazil, is visiting the U. S. as guest of Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown. The Air Marshal will participate in discussions with Air Force officials and the Air Staff. He will visit the Lockheed-Georgia Co., Marietta, Ga., before returning home on March 3.

FOURTEEN GENERAL OFFICERS and two colonels, members of National Guard and Army Reserve components, have begun 12-day study at Senior Reserve Components Officers Course at Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa. Fifth such course to be held at Army's senior educational institution, series of lectures will be highlighted by talk from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson.

MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK Squadron 312 Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Herbert V. Lundin has passed the 7,000 hour flight mark. Col. Lundin logged his 7000th hour during flight from MCAS Yuma, Ariz., to home base at MCAS Beaufort, S. C. Flight time has been logged in all major fighter aircraft from World War II F4F Wildcat to today's supersonic F-4B Phantom.

TRANSIENT AND TDY quarters for enlisted personnel are critical at McGuire AFB, N. J. Officials said personnel should have sufficient funds to cover cost of commercial facilities.

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Background for Commanders

PATTERN FOR COOPERATION: U.S. AND THAILAND*

It has been the tradition of Thai-American relations, for over a century and a half, to set exemplary standards in terms of the mutual understanding and respect which are essential in contacts between nations, particularly between those whose disparities in their size and power are significant.

As the Foreign Minister of Thailand observed last May, **"Our relationship stands out as a remarkable example of how a small nation can work with a great power without being dominated or indeed losing its identity."**

Thailand's Contributions

There are no doubts as to whether Thailand brings as much to that partnership as she receives. There are a great many voluntary and reciprocal actions which could be cited. To examine only one of them, we might choose Thailand's contribution to the military effectiveness of her American and South Vietnamese allies, which is a part of her ongoing heavy support of SEATO objectives.

The Royal Thai Government has permitted the use of its bases by elements of the U. S. armed forces engaged in carrying out defensive measures under the obligations both Governments had assumed under the SEATO treaty.

The Thai facilities which have played such a critical role in the defense of South Vietnam did not appear miraculously or mysteriously, simply because of the free world's urgent need for them. Those installations were put in place by Thailand much earlier, in the course of long-term military preparedness efforts undertaken in its own defense, and in response to its obigations as a highly conscientious member of SEATO.

The complex of modern military logistical facilities now available in Thailand is the result of a combined effort that has been made within the SEATO framework to provide for the defense of the treaty area. The United States continues to play its role within SEATO by taking an active part in the maintenance and improvement of those facilities. Thus, among the 35,283 members of the American armed forces in Thailand, as of January 5 there were some 8,000 engaged in the construction and maintenance of strategic roadways, communications networks, port facilities, military supply depots, and other installations which have been judged by SEATO members to be essential for the security of this area.

At the same time, the U. S. continues its 16-year-old program to assist in the training and equipment of Thailand's armed forces. **As long-range Communist plans for Thailand's subversion, announced by Peking some time ago, are accelerated, Thai-U. S. cooperation under the military assistance program has taken these new tactics into account.**

An American Special Forces unit has been deployed to Thailand on a training mission which will give Thailand additional military units skilled in counter-insurgency operations. At Thai request, a company of unarmed American helicopters has been temporarily operating in the northeast to provide the all-important elements of mobility and logistical flexibility for Thai civilian and military authorities engaged in the numerous economic, social, and security development programs Thailand has organized to protect and benefit its people in the remote areas. In the next 2 weeks, these air lift missions will be taken over by the Thai Government, using its own new aircraft, flown and serviced by newly graduated helicopter pilots and ground maintenance crews.

For the record, neither the Special Forces and other American training personnel nor these temporarily provided helicopters have participated in actual counter-insurgency combat operations. The Thai have insisted that this is their responsibility which they will meet with their own armed forces.

It is in these and other unsensational ways that the U. S. has moved to help strengthen this country militarily, and to assist a government deeply conscious of its responsibilities for protecting its own and neighboring people.

As you know, the Royal Thai Government has decided to add to [its] Air Force and Navy units, now engaged with their other free-world allies in resisting aggression in South Vietnam, an additional fighting force from the Royal Thai Army. They will be warmly welcomed by their other SEATO allies who learned of their courage and valor when they fought as allies in the command in Korea.

U. S. Mission in Free Asia

In summary, our mission in Thailand is not to oversee or involve ourselves in the internal military and civilian affairs which are the exclusive business of the Thai themselves. **Our mission is to perform as trusted friend, discreet confidante, and dependable ally and, where we can, to make available from our experience and resources those things which Thailand judges to be applicable and beneficial to its own development and security.**

It is a similar approach that will enable America to associate itself most fully with the new order that has begun to emerge so rapidly within free Asia.

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* *Excerpts from an address by Graham Martin, U. S. Ambassador to Thailand, in Bangkok on 18 January 1967.*

Emulsified Aviation Fuel Goal of Army Scientists

Army scientists are working on a new emulsified fuel for aircraft that is less flammable and splashes over a smaller area than present mixtures, thereby reducing accident fire hazards.

Announcement of the new mixture was made by Brig. Gen. Kenneth F. Dawalt, deputy chief of Army's research and development program.

Development stemmed from study showing that most fatal landing and take-off accidents resulted from fires. Tests indicate the fuel provides new safety features at little cost to efficiency.

Army Seeks Increase In Clothing Allowance

Army has asked DOD to increase the supplemental clothing allowance from the $83 limitation to $125 to meet clothing price increases.

Costs, within the past year, exceeded the authorized amount in certain special allowance categories. These are military police, escort duty, recruiting duty for both enlisted men and women, and band duty for enlisted women.

Marines List Fields Open In Voluntary Recall Program

Twelve occupational fields and 40 military occupational specialties are open to Fleet Marine Corps Reservists desiring voluntary recall to active duty.

Staff noncommissioned officers desiring recall to the two-year active duty period must have more than two years remaining before becoming eligible for retirement with 30 years' active and inactive service.

Marine Corps Bulletin 1141 of Feb. 3 outlines standards of eligibility and lists the occupational fields and military occupational specialties open under the program.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD—Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Edwin R. Chess, Air Force Chief of Chaplains, has been appointed new chairman of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board. He succeeds Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Charles E. Brown Jr., Army Chief of Chaplains. Chairmanship of the board, which consists of the chiefs of the three services and their deputies, is rotated among the services.

Army Approves Phase Out Of Shawnees, Chickasaws

A plan for phasing out all of Army's CH-21 Shawnees and all but two of the UH-19 Chickasaws by May 1968 has been approved by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson.

The planned phase-out results from the helicopters having passed their normal life expectancy. They no longer meet operational requirements and are costly to repair and operate.

There are 143 Chickasaws in inventory. All of these are assigned to the Continental United States. The two remaining after the planned phase-out will continue to support Nike-X tests in Kwajalein. They have repair parts for three years.

More than half the 146 Shawnees in inventory are assigned to major overseas commands. The last increment to be phased out will be the 15 assigned to Army Materiel Command.

Army Engineers Complete Resource Analysis Project

The first of four extensive analyses of physical resources for agricultural, economic and sociological development in Latin America has been completed by Army's Corps of Engineers.

This recently completed inventory of Nicaragua will be used by governmental organizations to aid in planning of rural and industrial development projects.

Studies are being conducted by Army for the Agency for International Development under a 1963 interagency agreement.

Nuclear Desalinization Starts At Navy Antarctic Station

The Navy has hooked up a desalinization unit to its nuclear electric power plant at McMurdo Station to meet the water needs for the men who winter-over and spend the summer in Antarctica.

A flash evaporator that uses steam from the nuclear power plant is now producing 14,000 gallons of water daily, more than enough to supply the 250 Navy men and scientists who winter-over and the 1,250 summertime population.

The nuclear reactor itself has been supplying the South Pole outpost with heat and electricity since July 1962.

Navy's Amphibious Force Lauded on 25th Anniversary

Navy Secretary Paul B. Nitze has congratulated the U.S. Amphibious Force on its Silver Anniversary, Feb. 20.

"Since the birth of the Amphibious Force 25 years ago," the secretary said, "it has added many dramatic pages to the history of the United States Navy."

Secretary Nitze said the Amphibious Force, with the Marine Corps, has extended a powerful arm of sea power ashore at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Normandy, Inchon, and today in Vietnam.

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